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APR 14 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
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FCC MAIL ROOM

Office of the Secretary,  
Federal communications Commission  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: PR Docket 93-85, (responsibility of amateur radio message-forwarding stations)

I am very pleased to learn that the FCC is ready to do away with the rules which hold EVERY amateur radio station in a message-forwarding system responsible for the content of every message they automatically pass. Obviously, you understand well the problems and effects of requiring the system operator of every node in a forwarding system to screen every message that is passed; so, I won't bother to belabor those points.

The amateur who originates a violative message should of course be held responsible for that message's content; however, you evidently wish to also hold the system operator (sysop) of the first forwarding station responsible. You don't seem to realize that this causes most of the same problems that the proposed rule is supposed to alleviate.

*Continuing to make the first relay station responsible for the content of messages generated locally is a lot like requiring every city/county to post a guard at each freeway on-ramp to inspect cars for illegal items. The proposed rule is like eliminating inspections at each interchange and off-ramp; so this would speed the flow of traffic once ON the freeway--but can you imagine the congestion locally? This is effectively what you are proposing.*

I am a user of the N0ARY amateur radio packet bulletin board system (PBBS) in Sunnyvale CA. This one PBBS has over one thousand users now and it's growing fast. If just 10% of our users generate one